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SUBJ: DOMESTIC REPERCUSSIONS OF TIMOR

REF: LISBON 4403 (DTG 301541Z JUN 76)

SUMMARY: A CONSERVATIVE LISBON NEWSPAPER HAS PUBLISHED EXCERPTS FROM A "SECRET" REPORT ON THE ROLE OF PORTUGUESE MILITARY FORCES IN TIMOR AT THE TIME OF THE TIMORESE UPRISING. THE REPORT ALLEGES ACTIONS FAVORABLE TO FRETELIN FORCES BY PORTUGUESE MILITARY GOVERNOR LEMOS PIRES, THE MILITARY COMMANDER, AND OTHER OFFICERS. LEMOS PIRES REPLIED WITH POINT BY POINT REFUTATION OF ALLEGATIONS. EXECUTION OF PORTUGUESE ARMY OFFICER IN TIMOR IS BEING EXPLOITED BY RIGHT AS PROTEST AGAINST GOP DECOLONIZATION POLICIES. PRESS AND PUBLIC, HOWEVER, CONTINUE TO FOCUS ON EXPECTED RELEASE OF PORTUGUESE PRISONERS BY INDONESIANS. END SUMMARY.

1. "SECRET" REPORT PUBLISHED:

THE CONSERVATIVE LISBON NEWSPAPER "O DIA" PUBLISHED

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JULY 1 EXTENSIVE EXCERPTS FROM A "SECRET" REPORT ALLEGING

ACTIONS FAVORABLE TO FRETILIN BY PORTUGUESE MILITARY GOVERNOR LTC LEMOS PIRES, MILITARY COMMANDER LTC TEIXEIRA DE MAGALHAES, AND MAJORS JONATAS AND MOTA. THE SOURCE OF THE REPORT WAS NOT IDENTIFIED. THE REPORT CLAIMS THAT THE UDT UPRISING OF AUG 11, 1975 WAS AN EFFORT TO PREEMPT A AUG 15 POWER GRAB PLANNED BY FRETILIN AND ABETTED BY THE PORTUGUESE AUTHOORITIES. THE REPORT MAKES A VARIETY OF ACCUSATIONS AGAINST LEMOS PIRES AND HIS SUBORDINATES FOR ALLEGED ACTIONS FAVORING FRETILIN.

2. REPORT REFUTED:

LE MOS PIRES, A GRADUATE OF THE US ARMY COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF COURSE AND WELL AND FAVORABLY KNOWN TO THE EMBASSY, REPLIED PUBLICALLY WITH A POINT BY POINT REFUTATION OF THE "O DIA" ARTICLE.

3. EXECUTION EXPLOITED BY RIGHT:

ELEMENTS OF THE RIGHT WING MILITARY HAVE APPEARED IN FORCE AT THREE RECENT FUNERAL MASSES FOR LTC MAGIOLO GOUVEIA AS A WAY OF PROTESTING PORTUGUESE DECOLONIZATION POLICIES. GOUVEIA, THE POLICE COMMANDER IN TIMOR, WAS EXECUTED BY THE FRETILIN AFTER ALLEGEDLY JOINING THE UDT IN PROTEST AGAINST FRETILIN MASSACRES.

4. COMMENT: DESPITE THE "O DIA" ALLEGATIONS AND THE ATTEMPT TO EXPLOIT MAGIOLO GOUVEIA'S DEATH, THE PRESS AND PUBLIC CONTINUE TO FOCUS ON STATEMENTS BY MORAIS DA SILVA AND HIS AIDES THAT INDONESIA WILL RELEASE THE 23 PORTUGUESE MILITARY PRISONERS AND THE CIVILIANS ALLEGEDLY BEING HELD IN ATAMBUA.
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